

Programs are win-win-win: create jobs, help middle class families save, reduce waste

Washington, DC – Congressman Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) visited Dubuque today to discuss the importance of federal incentives for home improvement products that increase energy efficiency. Earlier this year, the House passed the *HomeStar Energy Retrofit Act*, which builds on the success of energy efficiency rebate programs included in the Recovery Act.

“As we saw earlier this year, energy efficiency rebate programs are win-win-win,” Braley said. “These programs help families save money on their utilities, they create construction and manufacturing jobs and they help reduce waste in our home appliances. Home Star is expected to allow 3 million families to retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient, save consumers \$9.2 billion over the next 10 years as a result of Home Star’s energy efficiency investments and most importantly, Home Star will create 168,000 new jobs here in the United States. America’s families need the Senate to pass this bill as soon as they return to session in September.”

The bill would also build upon efforts to strengthen America’s manufacturing industry, as nearly 90 percent of energy efficient technologies are manufactured in the United States.

Home Star provides rebates to homeowners who install energy-saving products, such as insulation, windows, doors, and heating systems. Home Star includes two tracks to provide long and short-term benefits.

- The **Silver Star** program will provide up-front rebates for the installation of specific energy-saving technologies, including insulation, duct sealing, windows and doors, air sealing, and water heaters.
- Homeowners will be able to receive up to \$3,000 in rebates under Silver Star.

- The **Gold Star** program rewards homeowners who conduct a comprehensive energy audit and implement a full complement of measures to reduce energy use throughout the home.
- Consumers will receive \$3,000, or half the cost, for measures that reduce energy use by 20 percent, and can receive up to \$8,000 when additional energy savings are achieved.